

ATTACHMENT - CLAIMS LISTING

Please cancel claims 4, 15, 20, 21 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A punching tool, having a guided, axially displaceable die plunger, which is fixed against relative rotation, in a guide bushing and having a bore in the front end in which a punching die can be axially fixed, the punching die provided with an annular groove, holding elements located in transverse bores in the die plunger, which holding elements releasably engage the annular groove, wherein during the punching stroke the punching die rests against a front face of the die plunger and can be axially fixed in place by said holding elements which are maintained in engagement with the annular groove by means of an elastic washer, ~~wherein said elastic washer is in contact with the holding elements, the outer diameter of which elastic washer is less in the engagement position than the inner diameter of the guide bushing and which elastic washer can be widened to a diameter greater than the inner diameter of the guide bushing when the die plunger is removed from the guide bushing~~ the die plunger including a further annular groove located in the outer circumferential surface of the die plunger and intersecting the transverse bores, the elastic washer being located within the further annular groove, wherein when the die plunger is within the guide bushing, the elastic washer is forced inwardly by its engagement with the inside wall of the guide bushing with sufficient force to cause the holding elements to engage the annular groove to secure the punching die in the die plunger, and wherein when the die plunger

is not within the guide bushing, the elastic washer expands to release the holding elements enough to permit removal of the punching die from the die plunger.

2. (Currently Amended) A punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein in the engagement position the outer diameter of the elastic washer ~~is only slightly less than the inner diameter~~ engages the inside of the guide bushing.

3. (Previously Presented) A punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elastic washer is made of steel.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the shaft of the punching die is formed with a flange, the rear of which rests against the front end face of the die plunger.

6. (Previously Presented) A punching tool in accordance with claim 5, wherein the distance between the transverse plane in which the longitudinal axes of the transverse bores are located and the front end face of the die plunger is of such a size in relation to the distance between the central transverse plane through the annular groove in the punching die and the back of the flange that the punching die can be pressed axially against the die plunger by means of the holding elements.

7. (Previously Presented) A punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the rear end face of the punching die rests against the bottom of the said bore in the die plunger.

8. (Previously Presented) A punching tool in accordance with claim 7, wherein the distance between the transverse plane in which the longitudinal axes of the transverse bores are located and the bottom of the bore is of such a size in relation to the distance between the central transverse plane through the annular groove in the punching die and the rear end face of the punching die that the punching die can be pressed axially against the die plunger by means of the holding elements.

9. (Previously Presented) A punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the punching die is further provided with a punch die longitudinal groove into which a transverse pin can be inserted, wherein the diameter of the pin matches the width of the punch die longitudinal groove.

10. (Previously Presented) A punching tool in accordance with claim 9, wherein the transverse pin projects radially outward out of the die plunger into a guide bushing longitudinal groove located in the guide bushing.

11. (Previously Presented) The punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ends of the transverse bores facing the annular groove are tapered inwardly so as

to prevent the holding elements from coming out of the transverse bores when the punching die is not in the die plunger.

12. (Previously Presented) The punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the holding elements are balls which are of such a diameter as to snap fit into the annular groove.

13. (Currently Amended) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein in the engagement position the outer diameter of the elastic washer ~~is only slightly less than the inner diameter~~ engages the inside of the guide bushing.

14. (Previously Presented) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein the elastic washer is made of steel.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein the shaft of the punching die is formed with a flange, the rear of which rests against the front end face of the die plunger.

17. (Previously Presented) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein the rear end face of the punching die rests against the bottom of the said bore in the die plunger.

18. (Previously Presented) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein the punching die is further provided with a punch die longitudinal groove into which a transverse pin can be inserted, wherein the diameter of the pin matches the width of the punch die longitudinal groove.

19. (Previously Presented) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein the ends of the transverse bores facing the annular groove are tapered inwardly so as to prevent the balls from coming out of the transverse bores when the punching die is not in the die plunger.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A punching tool, having a guided, axially displaceable die plunger, which is fixed against relative rotation, in a guide bushing and having a bore in the front end in which a punching die can be axially fixed, the punching die provided with an annular groove, the punching die having a punch die longitudinal groove into which a transverse pin can be inserted, wherein the diameter of the pin matches the width of the punch die longitudinal groove, holding elements located in transverse bores in the die plunger, which holding elements releasably engage the annular groove, wherein during the punching stroke the punching die rests against a front face of the die plunger and can be axially fixed in place by said holding elements which are maintained in engagement with the annular groove by means of an elastic washer, the outer

diameter of which elastic washer is less in the engagement position than the inner diameter of the guide bushing and which elastic washer can be widened to a diameter greater than the inner diameter of the guide bushing when the die plunger is removed from the guide bushing.

23. (Canceled)

24. (New) A punching tool in accordance with claim 22, wherein the transverse pin projects radially outward out of the die plunger into a guide bushing longitudinal groove located in the guide bushing.

25. (New) A punching tool in accordance with claim 22, wherein in the engagement position the outer diameter of the elastic washer engages the inside of the guide bushing.

26. (New) A punching tool in accordance with claim 22, wherein the elastic washer is made of steel.

27. (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 22, wherein the ends of the transverse bores facing the annular groove are tapered inwardly so as to prevent the holding elements from coming out of the transverse bores when the punching die is not in the die plunger.

28. (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 22, wherein the holding elements are balls which are of such a diameter as to snap fit into the annular groove.

29. (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 22, wherein, in the widened condition of the elastic washer, the force of the holding elements on the punching die is reduced so as to allow axial removal of the punching die from the die plunger.